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NSC BRIEFING 27 May 1954

FRENCH POLITICAL SITUATION AND INDOCHINA

I. Laniel faces Indochina debate on 1 June

A. Besides hostility within coalition to his Indochina policy, new factors may induce anti-EDC forces to quit cabinet:

1. Socialist Congress 29-30 May expected to call for disciplined vote on EDC.

2. Popular Republican Congress 29-30 May may bring threat to quit government if stalling on EDC continues.

3. Official announcement of Saar agreement expected after Socialist Congress.

a. Gaullists intend to criticize negotiations on Saar.

II. Deputies will hesitate to create crisis,

A. While there is hope of Geneva settlement;

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B. Particularly since no substitute
for Laniel is in sight.

1. On 13 May enough deputies switch-
ed at last minute to give Laniel
his 289-287 victory.

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